REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-8 and 13-16, 19 and 21 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6-8, 13, 14, 19 and 21 are amended, and claim 2-5 and 9-12, 17, 18, 20 and 22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 5-7 and 12-14 contain allowable subject matter.

As a preliminary matter, the Office Action fails to address claims 18-22 submitted in the September 21, 2005 Preliminary Amendment. Claims 18-22 are dependent claims and are discussed below as if they were examined in the Office Action.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wasaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,987,430) in view of Barsellotti (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,849). By this Amendment, Applicants assert that these rejections of claims 1-4, 8-11, 17, 18, 20 and 22 are moot.

Specifically, The Office Action indicates that claims 5-7 and 12-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended to incorporate with the allowable claims 5 and 12, respectively, and are therefore allowable. Claims 6, 7 and 19 now depend from claim 1 and are therefore also allowable by virtue of their dependency as well as for the additional features they recite. Claims 13-16 and 21 depend now from claim 8 and are therefore also allowable by virtue of its dependency as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 6-8 and 13-16, 19 and 21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo

Registration No. 50,559

JAO:AXS/tbm

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